

REMARKS

Claims 2, 18, 28, 37, and 42-47 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-7, 11-12, 19, 22, 25-27, and 29-33 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1, 3-17, 19-27, 29-36, and 38-41 remain pending.

The amendments made herein to claims 1 and 27, and the cancellation of claims 42-47, are believed to overcome or render moot the rejections under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-17, 19-27, 29-36, and 38-41 under 35 USC 103(a).

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to claim 1, the claim has been amended to recite “a second transmitting device installed at said second physical location that is responsive to a command intentionally initiated by said second individual at said second physical location to develop a second presence signal intended for said first individual at said first physical location and to transmit said presence signal over a second physical data line associated with said second physical location” and “a second receiving device located at said first physical location which is receptive to said second presence signal and which is operative to generate an indication to said first individual of said second individual’s presence at said second physical location.” Support for this amendment may be found, e.g., in the Application at page 8, line 8 – page 9, line 30 & Figure 1. Both the Richardson and Ise references relied on in the Office Action as the basis for rejecting claim 1 teach at least one station as being a radio pager device. A “presence signal” transmitted from such a device would not be transmitted “over a second physical data line associated with said second physical location,” as recited in claim 1, and would not necessarily provide “an indication to said first individual of said second individual’s

presence at said second physical location,” as recited in claim 1. As such, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 3-17 and 19-27 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Like claim 1, claim 27 has been amended to recite, “transmitting from a second transmitting device installed at said second physical location and over a data line associated with said second physical location, in response to a command intentionally initiated by said second individual at said second physical location, a second presence signal intended for said first individual at said first physical location” and “receiving at said first physical location said second presence signal and generating an indication to said first individual of said second individual’s presence at said second physical location.” As such, claim 27 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claims 29-36 and 38-41 depend from claim 27 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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